

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received AUG 14 1985
date entered

SEP 27 1985

1. Name

historic Country Club Historic District, Expanded (Country Tricase)
and or common Country Club

2. Location

street & number Between Downing & University, E. 4th Ave. and N. of Alameda Ave. N/A not for publication
city, town Denver N/A vicinity of
state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | N/A in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | N/A being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Recreation |

4. Owner of Property

EXPANDED AREA: Denver Country Club
name Cheesman Realty Associates, c/o Scott Moore
1700 East 1st Ave. at Gilpin
street & number 1670 Broadway, Suite 3355
city, town Denver N/A vicinity of state Colorado 80202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City & County Building, Clerk & Recorder
street & number 14th & Bannock St.
city, town Denver state Colorado 80202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
date Ongoing ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local
depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society, OAHF, 1300 Broadway
city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

7. Description

Condition☒ excellent☐ deteriorated☐ good☐ ruins☐ fair☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Denver Country Club, located on East First Avenue in Denver between Downing Street and University Boulevard, forms the southern boundary of the Country Club Historic District. The club's main driveway, an extension of Gilpin Street, a central street with a parkway in the historic district, is heavily landscaped with shrubbery, trees and flowers. Formal entry to the clubhouse, oriented northward facing the district, has plantings around the entrance that provide a visual link with the landscaping that characterizes East First Avenue Parkway and the Country Club neighborhood.

The Denver Country Club is composed of 142 total acres, including 115 acres in irrigated grass and trees, 25 acres for building area, and 2 acres for ponds. Older residential neighborhoods surround the club on three sides with commercial development to the east. Heavy vegetation around the perimeter of the club grounds provides a buffer against traffic noise.

The historic boundaries and use of the grounds of the Country Club have little changed since the establishment of the club at its present location in the early 20th century. The golf course, laid out in 1903, is still placed in approximately the same area as was originally. Skating facilities, tennis courts, swimming pool, and polo fields were all historically within the boundaries, as they are today--with the exception of the polo fields.¹ In terms of cultural landscaping, therefore, the club's historic function has remained the same. Since the development of the Country Club residential area, the club has continued to play a significant role in providing open space within urban growth.

Along the northern edge of the property is a cluster of buildings, predominantly Colonial Revival in style, which compose the main activity area of the Country Club. The clubhouse, indoor tennis facility, cart barn, putting green, driving range, skating rink, outdoor tennis courts, bowling green and swimming pool are located here. Surrounding the clubhouse on three sides is the 18-hole golf course, with seven shelter houses and one comfort station in various locations on the course. At the southeast corner of the property along University is the maintenance area. Both Cherry Creek and the City Ditch pass through the property.

Of the approximately 18 buildings on the grounds of the Denver Country Club, eight are 50 years or older. The historic buildings include the main clubhouse and seven shelters located near the 4th, 10th, 12th, and 17th greens, and near the 14th and 16th tees. The pool house, indoor tennis facility, and the lawn bowling building, although of recent construction, are made compatible with the Colonial Revival style of architecture through the use of clapboard siding, gray shingles, and quoins. The remaining seven structures are not compatible with the historic style; however, they are not of such size or configuration to compromise the historic character of the 142-acre club. These buildings include the comfort station, cart barn, ice rink and warming house, pool, pop stand and two maintenance buildings. Six small bridges built post-1935 are also located on club grounds.

The elements composing the club include the following:

1) Golf Course - The historic land use has remained the same since the 18-hole golf course was laid out around 1903, and its location within the 142-acre parcel is approximately the same. The course was severely damaged during the 1912 Cherry Creek flood when the creek went out of its banks and washed away many fairways and greens. Originally, the first three holes were located north of the clubhouse along First Avenue. The remaining holes crossed back and forth across Cherry Creek (see map of 1918 course). The polo field was located along Downing Street next to old hole #7, until it was moved to East Alameda around 1923. At that time, Fred McCartney redesigned the golf course to

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|--------------------|--|-------------|---|------|---|

fill in the gap left by the departure of the polo games. No further changes occurred until 1957 when First Avenue was widened. As a result, the first three golf holes were moved to the south, necessitating the creation of five new holes, numbered 11 through 15. These changes were designed by grounds superintendent Jim Haines and golf course architect William Diddle. Subsequent changes occurred in the 1970s to various holes designed by golf architect Edwin B. Seay.

Landscaping on the Denver Country Club golf course turned a barren prairie with a few cottonwoods and choke cherry trees along the creek, into a lush greenbelt with a wide variety of trees and shrubs. An active landscaping program began as early as 1910 with a number of plantings around the clubhouse. The club maintains a nursery, started in 1979, near the 4th fairway at Bayaud and Downing streets, an arboretum located between the 5th and 7th holes and a sod farm, originally located on the site of the maintenance area (now at old Number 12 green).

The ponds on the golf course are manmade. The pond along the 14th fairway was built in 1957 and the one along the 5th fairway in 1965.

Some of the cottonwoods and choke cherry trees still line Cherry Creek and a row of large trees along the 13th fairway mark the old access road to the Morey-Ferguson House. Otherwise the majority of the trees on the club property were planted over the years. A 1979 report counted 3,772 trees on the property including the cottonwoods, poplar, willow, elm, oak, ash, honey locust and evergreen. The shrub hedge around the perimeter of the club was planted in 1972.

When the course was redesigned in 1957, a new driveway was laid out and planted under the supervision of Harman, O'Donnell and Henninger. The general layout remains the same in 1985, although some of the plantings have been replaced.

2) Shelters - There are seven wood frame shelter houses built around 1925 by McPhee and McGinnity that still remain in 1985. They are scattered around the golf course, and have gable or hipped roofs, are covered with shingles, have benches and are painted green. The shelter located on the 12th green is the most unusual due to its shape and good condition.

3) The Clubhouse - The clubhouse, built in 1904, was originally a T-shaped structure in the Shingle Style of architecture. The two-story main section faced eastward and featured a broad sloping hipped roof with overhanging eaves, shingle siding, projecting gable entrance with columns and a wrap-around porch.

Between 1909 and 1924, a series of minor changes were made to the building. Around 1910, the second floor gable end on the north side was enlarged, and a screened porch constructed. Columns were added to the entrance on the east and north sides. The roof of the projecting gable entrance was raised on the east side, and an identical screened porch constructed on the second floor. In 1916, the porches were glassed in.

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The most significant of the alterations to the clubhouse occurred in 1925 when the style of the building was changed to Colonial Revival, then a popular domestic style in the adjacent Country Club residential section. Also at this time, a new wing was added to the west side, the formal entrance placed on the north facade and private entrances built for women and for the men's locker room. The prominent Denver architectural firm of Fisher and Fisher provided designs for the alterations, and the construction work was carried out by Brown and Schrepferman. Interior remodeling included a men's lounge, grill, private dining rooms, card room, and a locker room for women. The large central brick chimney with a brick retaining wall was constructed during this phase.

Because of the construction ban during World War II, at war's end the clubhouse was in need of refurbishing and improvements to accommodate a growing membership and maintain the club's traditional elegance and comfort.

Interior improvement began in 1945 with the opening of newly arranged and decorated dining rooms, the installation of a new kitchen (1946-47 by Platt Rogers, contractor). The men's grill was expanded at this time as was the main office. On the exterior, a new cocktail lounge and circular terrace, designed by Smith Hegner and Moore, was added to the east side in 1950 in the location of the original main entrance.

The late 1950s and early 1960s brought another series of improvements under the guidance of Denver architect James Sudler and Associates. These ranged from minor interior modifications to the dining room (1958) and men's grill (1953) to a redesign of the main north entrance (1957). The new design featured an elegant portico with square columns, three double entry doors leading to a new foyer with terrazo floor and double semi-circular stairs leading to the main level entrance to the ball room.

In the early 1960s, Sudler and Associates oversaw a number of interior improvements to the ladies room, men's cloak room, and grill and main dining room. A number of service areas, such as the kitchen and basement employee's dining room and second floor offices, were upgraded by the architectural firm of Fisher and Davis in 1965-67. Architect Rodney Davis designed a new two-story addition on the south facade of the west wing for an extension to the men's locker room in 1968 with wood shingle facing and quoins to match the existing exterior. A new men's entrance was also put on the north facade of the west wing at this time.

Despite improvements through the years, the building as it stands today reflects to a large degree its 1925 appearance. Several important elements still exist from the 1925 design, including the Palladian windows on the north and south facades, the cupola on the west wing, quoins, six over six sash windows and gabled and flat roofs. Features remaining from the original 1904 structure include the shingle siding, two chimneys on the west and a large porch window at the northeast corner.

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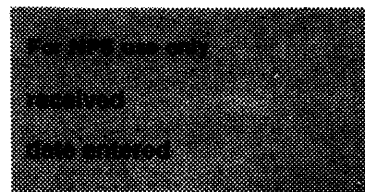
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The following structures are compatible in style but are classified as intrusions due to their construction dates:

4) Indoor Tennis Facility - The indoor tennis facility was built in two sections. The first, a wood frame structure, completed in 1969, covered two courts along First Avenue. The second, a metal structure, was completed in 1977 on the east end of the original. A pro shop, designed by Rodney Davis, was added to the west of the building in 1977. The building has a gable roof, quoins, lap siding and multi-paned windows. There are four tennis courts inside plus spectators area and pro shop.

5) Swimming Pool House - Designed by Decker and Associates, the pool house was constructed in 1983. It is one-story faced in clapboard siding, with gabled roof and multi-paned windows. It is located on the northeast corner of the pool area.

6) Lawn Bowling Hut - The Lawn Bowling Hut, storage for bowling equipment, is located at the Lawn Bowling Green south of the tennis courts. It is a small, one-story, wood frame structure with a gabled roof, and shingled siding.

The following structures are less than 50 years old and not consistent with the style of architecture of the grounds:

7) Comfort Station - The brick comfort station located behind the 15th tee. Built in 1960, it has a gabled roof, multi-paned windows, and an overhang covering a concrete slab.

8) Skating Rink Warming House - The wood frame warming house was designed by James Sudler and Associates in 1960. It has a gabled roof with large plate glass windows looking out to the ice rink.

9) Cart Barn - The cart barn, located to the west of the clubhouse and next to the skating rink, was built on the site of the old frame cart barn in 1975. It is of concrete with two tennis courts on the roof.

10) Maintenance Sheds - Two maintenance sheds were built in 1975 on the site of the former turf farm and Jim Haine's house near the southeast corner of the country club's property. Replacing two wood frame structures originally located near the 11th tee, these two structures are "Butler type" steel construction. One is used for offices, the other for equipment and dry chemical storage.

11) Pop Stand - In 1961, James Sudler designed the Snack Bar, also called the Pop Stand, south of the pool.

Other facilities on the grounds considered non-contributing due to recent construction, but consistent with historic use include:

12) Skating Rink - The earliest rink, a concrete slab built in 1917, was flooded with water during the winter. Artificial ice machinery was installed in 1952 in a frame ice rink built by Platt Rogers in 1950.

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13) Outdoor Tennis Courts— In addition to the original 1903-04 tennis courts, later courts were built in 1917 by A. Danielson. In 1929, T. A. Buell designed a stadium at Court #2. However, it was later demolished. Courts were originally clay and later converted to hard surface. In 1957, engineers Ketchum and Konkell designed two additional concrete courts. Following the 1975 completion of the cart barn, two elevated outdoor courts were added on the roof, bringing the total number of tennis courts to eight, plus the four indoor courts.

14) Swimming Pool - The first swimming pool, built in 1934, was rectangular shaped, designed by T. A. Buell, architect. In 1959-60, a tunnel was built beneath the southeast corner of the clubhouse for the entrance to the women's locker room and to allow golfers to bypass the pool area. In 1982, a new swimming pool and terrace was designed by Decker and Associates. Stone from an Arizona quarry was used for the new pool deck and terrace.

15) Bridges - There are six bridges located on the golf course crossing Cherry Creek for pedestrian and golf cart usage. One is concrete and five are wood. Because of their date of construction post-1935, they are considered non-contributing elements.

¹
The only other sport accomodated after 1935 was lawn bowling.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1902–1935 **Builder/Architect** Numerous (see #7)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Denver Country Club, one of the oldest and most exclusive private country clubs in the Rocky Mountain Region,¹ is a natural historic and visual extension of the adjacent National Register Country Club Historic District, listed in 1979. The Denver Country Club was not included in the original nomination because the focus was on the development of the residential area, its architectural styles, prominent Denver architects and important residents. More recent research reveals the strong ties binding the country club and the district together with a common history of development beginning in 1902 and achieving significance up through the 1930s. The district, Denver's most significant and prestigious early 20th century residential area, contains many large homes designed by Denver's most important architects who also worked on designs for the Denver Country Club facilities. These included William E. and Arthur A. Fisher, Alan Fisher and James Sudler, all of whom built their homes in the district. Several of the country club's charter members of 1902, such as Gerald Hughes -- U.S. Senator from 1909 to 1911 -- prominent Denver attorneys Clayton C. Dorsey and Tyson S. Dines, and real estate developer Frederick Ross, subsequently built homes in Country Club District beginning with the 1905 development of Park Club Place and of Country Club Addition in 1909.²

Both areas, developed on the same parcel of land acquired in 1902 by the Fourth Avenue Realty Company, are physically linked by the landscaped First Avenue Parkway running between the two and Gilpin Street at the club entrance. The historic use of the land since 1902 and the boundaries of the residential district and the country club remain the same except for the 1957 extension of the golf course onto a small section of leased land in the extreme southeast corner -- made necessary by the loss of golf holes along East First Avenue when the street was widened.

The 142 landscaped acres of the Denver Country Club, significant as an important element in Denver's urban landscape, provide a physical as well as historic enhancement of the adjacent district. The tree-lined channel of historic Cherry Creek, once known as Cherry Creek Grove, winds its way through the park-like setting of the country club grounds and lends a unique and natural ambiance to the golf course. The course, described as "an ageless golf course which has miraculously retained its old world charm," was laid out in early 1902–03. Voted among golfers as one of the most beautiful in the region, it has meticulously maintained greens and fairways planted with a wide variety of mature trees ranging from native Colorado blue spruce and cottonwood to oak and buckeye. Rare species, donated periodically by the members, include George Cranmer's Japanese Cherry trees planted along the banks of Cherry Creek in 1965 and two Chinese Scholar trees from Hopi Province, China. Donated by Karl Kuner Mayer ca. 1940, these were planted along the old number 7 fairway.

The Denver Country Club has long been important in the history of amateur golf, tennis, swimming and ice hockey in this region. The club, founded "to encourage and perpetuate the game of golf and athletic sports . . .", is historically a family club that stressed excellence in its sports programs for members' children and has produced many champion-

9. Major Bibliographical References

All information is from the files and records of the Denver Country Club including meeting minutes, architectural drawings, correspondence, scrapbooks, ledgers, annual reports, newsletters, and membership books.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 208 acres

Quadrangle name Englewood

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached verbal description and Map 2.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Norgren & Sally Pearce

organization Consultants

date 6/24/85

street & number 7453 E. Jefferson Drive

telephone (303) 740-7860

city or town Denver

state Colorado 80237

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 30, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John R. Givens
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/27/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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ship teams and individuals. The club has hosted many city, state and national golf and tennis tournaments and swimming meets.

It is significant to note that since the founding of the Denver Country Club in 1901, its membership roster has contained the names of many of the city's and state's most notable and influential business, professional, political and social leaders. Among the important founders are U.S. Senators Lawrence Phipps and Gerald Hughes; real estate men such as Frederick R. Ross, J.A. Ferguson, Horace W. Bennett, Philip Feldhauser and Charles A. Johnson; mercantile merchants John W. Morey and John Sydney Brown, Jr.; financiers Charles Boettcher and his son Claude; noted attorneys Gerald Hughes, Clayton C. Dorsey, Charles S. Thomas and Tyson Dines; lumberman and contractor William P. McPhee; insurance company owners Clarence Cobb and Frederick W. Standart and utilities executive Edwin S. Kassler, Sr. These men, now referred to as the "Old Guard", were members of the Overland Park Club established in 1895 when these sports-minded men leased a golf course and clubhouse at Overland Park from Henry R. Wolcott.

The founding of the Denver Country Club dates to November 28, 1901 when the Overland Park Club met to discuss the renewal of their lease with Overland Park and to consider establishing a new country club. On December 5, 1901, the Denver Country Club was incorporated by Chester S. Morey, Crawford Hill, W.A. Jayne, J.H. O'Bryan, and H. H. Lee for the purpose of golf and other sports, for social intercourse and "to acquire by purchase lease, gift or otherwise and maintain grounds for playing golf, tennis and other games and a club house." All Overland Park members in good standing were eligible for membership in the new club, which was limited to 400. Resident members were those living within ten miles from the post office (downtown) and those over that distance were non-resident. In 1902, the membership in the new club increased from some 80 Old Guard members to 267 resident members, 34 non-resident members and 178 associate members, which included, but was not limited to wives and daughters of members.

In the fall of 1902, a committee was appointed to find a permanent location for their country club which was to be announced at the annual meeting in October 1902. Meanwhile, a large tract of land east of the Downing Street crossing with Cherry Creek had become available through the foreclosure on the estate of pioneer entrepreneur John J. Riethmann. Riethmann, apparently a victim of the 1893 Silver Crash, was heavily in debt at the time of his death in 1901. To satisfy the creditors, the court ordered the sale of Riethmann's land holdings on May 6, 1902. On August 4, 1902, J.A. Ferguson bought a large continuous tract (240 acres of Riethmann's land), bounded by Cherry Creek east of Downing and south of East 4th Avenue. The next day, Ferguson along with Denver Country Club President, Henry T. Rogers, and members Charles Boettcher, Charles J. Hughes, Jr., and Gerald Hughes incorporated the Fourth Avenue Realty Company to develop a residential area with an adjacent country club. When the members of the Denver Country Club met for their annual meeting in October, the board was given authority to buy 120 acres of the Riethmann land lying along Cherry Creek east of Downing which included water rights from the City Ditch and the Arlington Diversion System. The terms of the sale had several stipulations including dedicating fifteen feet of land along the northern edge for street purposes (East First Avenue), taking immediate possession, grading to be completed by November 1, 1904 and constructing a clubhouse, costing no less than \$20,000, on the middle 40 acres.

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Laying out the new golf course may have begun late in 1902. After the mortgage bonds of \$42,800 were issued on March 16, 1903, arrangements were made for machine and hand seeding with rye and two other varieties of grass. When established, it was cut frequently, irrigated by flooding and rolled with a "two horse roller." Other work included grading roads and constructing a caddy house, stables and sheds. A temporary bridge was put across Cherry Creek, whose banks were lined with large native cottonwood and wild plum trees and choke cherry bushes.

Two men, prominent in the history of the development of the golf course were Fred McCartney, a founding member and chairman of the ground committee ca. 1903-04, and Jim Haines, grounds-keeper from ca. 1925 to the 1960s. McCartney, Colorado Amateur Golf champion in 1907 and 1908 and club president in 1930, may have laid out the original course, and he is largely responsible for its evolution from arid farm land to lush green course that plays back and forth across Cherry Creek. McCartney redesigned the course in 1924-25 to eliminate the polo field near Downing. Polo matches began ca. 1907 on the flat ground near the present 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th fairways. In 1923 the matches were moved to the new Polo Grounds between South University, South Steele, Alameda and Exposition bought by Ira R. Humphreys and Lafayette Hughes for a new polo club. Seven new wood shelter houses, constructed on the redesigned course in 1925 by McPhee and McGinnity Lumber Company, still remain but have been moved from their original locations.

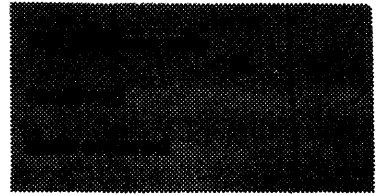
McCartney's design of the course remained essentially the same until the 1957 widening of East First Avenue necessitated the construction of several new holes and fairways near University on land leased from the Evans and Ferguson families who had large homes on the bluffs to the south overlooking the course. The new layout, including renumbering of the holes, was completed by Jim Haines, and golf course architect Bill Diddle from Indiana. The redesign, which emphasized small greens and accuracy, retained a number of the old greens with few changes. Over 2,000 new trees were planted at this time.

From the earliest days, the golf course has been the scene of many tournaments, including the Colorado Amateur Gold Championships in the early 1900s, the Men's Trans-Mississippi Golf Tournament (one of the oldest U.S. amateur events) held at the club in 1910, 1923, 1946 and early 1980s, and the Women's Trans-Mississippi held in 1929, the earliest-known date the event was held on the country club course. In addition to McCartney, early Denver Country Club members who won the state golf championships from 1901 to 1908 were Frank L. Woodward and Walter Fairbanks.

The development of the golf course could never have been accomplished without adequate water for irrigation. Two important water rights were included in the purchase of the Riethmann land by the Fourth Avenue Realty Company in August of 1902. The City Ditch right included 24 miners inches when the ditch ran from April through October and the Arlington Diversion System right for 80 inches of water "flowing from a spring or under-ground current east of York Street in the bed of Cherry Creek." On August 11, 1902, the realty company contracted with the firm of Holme and Allen to construct a water system in the bed of Cherry Creek near Steele Street to deliver water to the west side of University, the future site of the country club. The system was a series of galleries, cribbing and pipes in the bed of Cherry Creek to collect seepage and underflow which was directed underground through a 22-inch wood stave pipe line 300 feet in length to the

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country club grounds. As floods shifted the creek channel and water was diverted upstream, the water began to diminish in the late 1920s and irrigation switched to water pumped from a series of wells on the club grounds in 1930. One of the oldest of these is located near the northeast corner of the golf course at East First and University.

The City Ditch right was increased to 66 inches in the 1930s, about the same time the original water system was abandoned. The country club's ditch right is one of the oldest along with those owned by the city. The ditch, originating in the 1860s to divert water from the Platte River for irrigation, flows through the western portion of the grounds and is stored in the two ponds on the golf course. One of the earliest ditch deliveries was to the city parks, namely Washington and City parks. The City Ditch was designated a local Denver and a National Register landmark in 1977.

While the golf course was under construction, plans were well underway by April 1903 for the new Shingle Style clubhouse designed by Theodore Boal, a club member. Boal, a partner in the Denver architectural firm of Boal and Harnois, was noted for designs of large mansions such as the Crawford Hill House and the Grant Humphreys Mansion. The new clubhouse completed in 1904, had many of the same facilities as the Overland Club, but was more spacious.⁴

Since 1903, Denver Country Club members have taken great pride in the excellence of the club's facilities and have devoted much time and effort in planning capitol improvement programs every six to eight years. The ideal of "true hospitality in the atmosphere of a beautiful home" has remained since the club's founding. Through the years, several of Denver's prominent architects, contractors and interior designers have provided plans and sports facilities. Among the architectural firms are Fisher and Fisher, Fisher and Davis, Smith Hegner and Moore, Frewen and Morris, James Sudler and Associates and Decker and Associates. Contractors of note have been Denver firms of Brown-Schrepferman, McPhee and McGinnity, Platt Rogers and Gerald Phipps. Interior designers include Claus Heppner - also of California and the noted Denver firm of Havens-Batchelder and planning consultants, Harman, O'Donnell and Henninger.

In 1925, the firm of Fisher and Fisher completed the redesign of the Shingle Style exterior into a Colonial Revival building which was one of the popular styles for the elegant residences being built in the nearby country club residential area. The style of the building has remained the same and most of the 1925 elements, such as gabled dormers, Palladian windows, quoins, and the cupola on the west wing, have been retained. Generally, the Colonial style has been used for the design of later buildings on the grounds with a consistency of shingle or clapboard facing, quoins, and Palladian motif as seen on the pool house.

Since its founding, one club policy has been to encourage skill in sports. In addition to golf, early sports included tennis and ice skating. Clay courts were constructed ca. 1903 and tennis has been an important sport ever since. The club has been host to many tournaments such as the Colorado State Tournament and Colorado Junior Open as well as many exhibitions. The tennis program has continually expanded until there currently are twelve courts including two elevated courts on the roof of the golf cart storage barn and four indoor courts near First Avenue.

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Country Club Historic

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In the early days, the clay courts were flooded for ice skating and the club purchased hockey sticks in the winter of 1903-04. In 1917 a concrete slab for an ice rink was poured in the vicinity of the present rink. A new rink was built in 1950 and artificial ice making equipment was installed in 1952. The club's skating program consists of lessons, ice reviews, and hockey teams.

Despite some opposition, a swimming pool designed by architect Temple H. Buell opened the summer of 1934, with some 64,000 member visits to the pool attesting to its popularity. It was filled twice monthly with warm artesian water from a well owned by Mrs. Ella Mullen Weckbaugh, a club member who lived in a large house on Cedar Avenue directly south of the golf course. The well water, conducted by pipes running under the bed of Cherry Creek, ceased to flow in 1948. A new water source was found and heating equipment was installed at that time. In 1959-60 a new pool and surrounding terrace, designed by architect James Sudler, was constructed.

The Country Club swimming teams and individuals have been prominent in events since 1934. Between 1950 and 1968, Denver Country Club swimmers brought home 26 championships from meets including those held by the Rocky Mountain AAU, Denver Swimming Association League, the Denver Open and the Mile High Swimming Association. In 1968 the pool was named in honor of Chester J. Preisser, the Club swimming coach since 1934, for his excellent coaching of youngsters to produce many championship individuals and teams.

The game of bowles and lawn bowling has long been enjoyed year round by Country Club members. Due to golf course changes, the bowling green has been in several different locations. In the 1960s, the Denver Country Club was one of only two clubs in the country to have bowling greens. Especially popular in the 1930s, a special long "bowlers table" was set in the dining room on bowling days.

Throughout its history, the clubhouse facilities have continued to play host to elegant social functions for its membership, which include the city's oldest and most socially prominent families. Included among the many notable guests entertained at the club have been U.S. Presidents Wilson and Taft. Traditional social events well known to Denverites, such as the fireworks display initiated in 1910 as part of the Fourth of July celebration, are still held.

¹The Denver Country Club's golf course represents the second oldest private course in Denver. The Overland golf course is the oldest, built c.1895. It is now a municipal course, in its approximate original location.

The oldest known private course (the number of holes are unknown) in Colorado was built in Estes Park by Lord Dunraven in 1875. It is no longer in existence. The oldest private 18-hole golf course in the United States was the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois, and dates to 1893.

²All information, with one exception, is from the files and records of the Denver Country Club including meeting minutes, architectural drawings, correspondence, scrap-books, ledgers, annual reports, newsletters, and membership books. The opening paragraph

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also contains information from the National Register form prepared for the original Country Club District.

³Haines, who came to the club as a mechanic in 1925, became a greenskeeper in 1928 supervising 26 people. He is well remembered for his devotion to the maintenance and beautification of the course doing most of the work at night with Mazda lamps and tractor headlights. In 1947 Haines established a sod farm on the site of the War Garden at Bayaud and Downing, and that site is currently the tree nursery established in 1979.

⁴The dining room was doubled in size and the number of dining porches increased. Other rooms included a lounge room (believed to be the present Ballroom), ladies' and men's locker rooms, a billiard room, a kitchen and "pantry cafe". The second floor had five bedrooms for rent to men members on a nightly, weekly or monthly basis, and one bathroom.

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"List of Members of The Old Guard, 1895-1926" (July 9, 1927)

1895-1926

List of Members of the Old Guard

July 9, 1927

RESIDENT

Ashley, Frank R. *died*
Babcock, F. E.
Ball, Edw. R. *died*
Bartlett, G. F.
Benedict, J. D.
Bennett, H. W. *died*
Berger, George B. *died*
Berger, Wm. B. *died*
Black, Dr. Melville
Blayne, W. N. W. *died*
Boettcher, Charles
Boettcher, Charles K.
Bromfield, A. J. *died 8/5/37*
Brown, Fred S. *died*
Brown, J. S. Jr.
Bullock, Calvin
Campbell, R. C. *died*
Chamberlin, F. J. *died*
Cobb, Clarence
Cobb, Harry C. *died*
Crocker, F. W. *died*
Crocker, Howard F.
Delleker, William H. *died*
Dines, Orville L.
Dines, Tyson S. *died*
Dorsey, C. C. *died*
Downs, W. D. *died*
Edmonds, J. F. *died*
English, Harry J.

RESIDENT

Feldhauser, Philip *died*
Foster, A. C.
Freeman, Dr. Leonard *died*
Gano, George W. *died*
Gano, Merritt W.
Gill, Charles W. *died*
Gove, Fred E. *died*
Graham, John W. *died*
Hall, Robert R.
Harrington, Charles H.
Harrington, Henry R.
Haughwout, Chas. S.
Harrington, Geo. W. *died*
Holland, Theodore *died*
Hughes, Andrew S. *died*
Hughes, Gerald
James, Harry C. *died*
Johnson, Charles A.
Kassler, Charles M. *died*
Kassler, Edwin S.
Kinney, Dr. J. E.
Koykendall, J. M. *died*
Lehman, Edward W. *died*
Lester, Barton G. *died*
Low, Albert H. *died*
Morey, John W.
Morrison, Wm. B.
MacCracken, R. E. *died*
McCartney, Fred W. *died*

RESIDENT

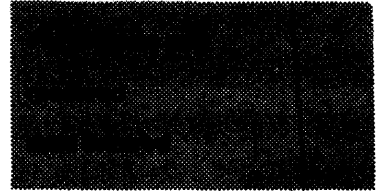
McCourt, Peter *died*
McPhee, William P. *died*
Noble, Louis S. *died*
Phipps, Lawrence C.
Plummer, John T.
Porter, W. E.
Rickard, Forbes *died*
Ross, Frederick R. *died*
Russell, William H. C. *died*
Sanger, Geo. P. *died*
Smith, Ralph W.
Smith, E. Salisbury
Standart, Frederick W.
Stearns, Thomas B. *died*
Timson, Edward C. *died*
Tears, Erwin
Thomas, Charles S. *died*
Van Mater, Harry *died*
Whitcomb, Charles B. *died*
Whitcomb, Dr. H. B.
Whitted, E. F. *died*
Willcox, Chas. MacA. *died*
Woodward, Frank L. *died*
Worthington, John S. *died*

NON-RESIDENT

Clay, John *died*
Penrose, R. A. F. Jr. *died*
Penrose, Spencer *died*

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes all of the Country Club Historic District currently listed in the National Register and the original property owned by the Denver Country Club and the leased land for the golf course in the southeast corner near University and Alameda

Beginning at the SE corner of Downing Street and East 4th Avenue, proceed E along the S side of East 4th to the rear property lines between High and Race streets; thence S along said property line, crossing E 1st Avenue, to the S curb line along E. 1st Avenue; thence E along said curb to University Boulevard; thence S along W curb line of University to a point N of E. Alameda on the Evans-Moore property at 2201 E. Alameda (see boundary map #2 and leased land map #3); thence in a northwesterly direction to a point where a continuation of E. Bayaud Avenue would meet Cherry Creek; thence W along the N side of Bayaud to the NW corner of Downing Street and Bayaud; thence N along the E curb line of Downing across Speer Boulevard to place of beginning at E. 4th Avenue & Downing.

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Name Country Club Historic District (original Dist)
State CO

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Additional Information
Approved

Keeper

Boh Grover 9/30/86

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

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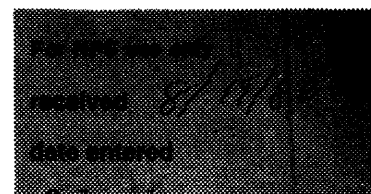
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Country Club Historic District (~~Boundary Increase~~), Denver County, Colorado

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ADDENDUM Statement of Significance Item #8

Adding to the ambiance of the Country Club Historic District (listed in the National Register 07-10-79; expanded district listed 09-27-85) are the tree-lined streets found through much of the district. Two companies involved in the development of the neighborhood were responsible for the landscaping. They include the Fourth Avenue Realty Company, formed in 1902 by a group of businessmen interested in developing a neighborhood near the Country Club. William E. Fisher was the architect selected to design the residential area. Influenced by Frederick Law Olmsted, Fisher was responsible for creating the parkways and entrance gates to the Country Club neighborhood, as well as the setbacks for the houses. This area, which now composes the east end of the district, has parkways throughout.

The west end of the district was developed by the Park Club Place Company, incorporated later in the year of 1902. The then mayor Robert Speer was one of the founders of the company. The Park Club Place Company was not as landscape-conscious as the Fourth Avenue Realty Company and thus the little parkway on Downing Street is the only parkway in that section of the Country Club neighborhood.

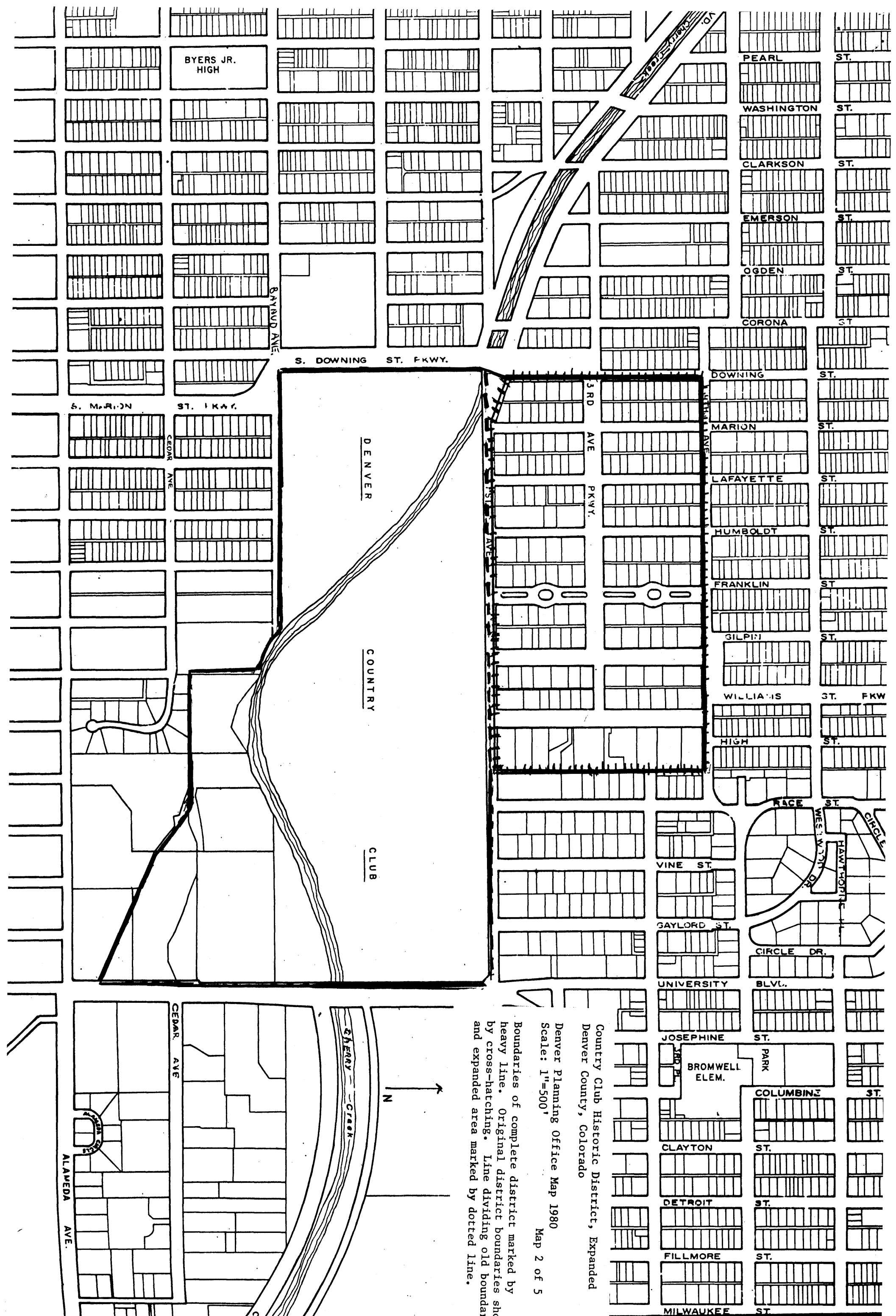
Designed to complement the prestigious Country Club neighborhood was East 1st Avenue, originally a tree-lined two-lane road. The north side of the street is still intact and greatly contributes to the historic character of the district. In 1959, the street was widened to four lanes, which resulted in the replacement of the south side parking strip with a median. However, the median is heavily landscaped with trees, flowers and bushes which recreate the spirit of the original design. East 1st, despite later changes, continues to link rather than separate the Country Club with the adjacent neighborhood.

Barbara Sudler

Barbara Sudler
State Historic Preservation Officer

8-8-86

Date



Country Club Historic District, Expanded
Denver County, Colorado
Denver Planning Office Map 1980
Scale: 1"=500'
Map 2 of 5
Boundaries of complete district marked by
heavy line. Original district boundaries shown
by cross-hatching. Line dividing old boundary
and expanded area marked by dotted line.